Secretaries at Colombo (9-10 August 2001), Indian Foreign Secretary urged Pakistan to facilitate implementation of these steps and consider taking similar measures of its own.

Confidential Reports of IPS and IFS Officers

*551 SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a lot of controversy regarding writing of Confidential Reports of the officers like SSPs, District Forest Officers by the District Magistrate (IAS Officers), which has received wide publicity in media on pros and cons basis;

(b) if so, the background of the existing orders and rules in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from IPS and IFS Officers' Associations etc., against the existing practice;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to review and amend the existing orders and rules; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (f) In a judgement delivered on 22.09.2000 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulkpad *Vs.* Union of India and Santosh Bharti *Vs.* State of Madhya Pradesh, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, while deciding the question as to who is the authority competent to write Confidential Report of an officer belonging to the Indian Forest Service (IFS) within the meaning of the provisions of All India Service (Confidential Rolls) Rules, 1970, had held that upto the officer of the rank of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, the reporting authority has to be the immediately superior officer within the Forest Department. The Supreme Court had taken note of the decision in State of Haryana *Vs.* Shri P. C. Wadhwa and Anr. 1987 (2) SCR.1030 and directed the State of Madhya Pradesh to pass appropriate orders enu: .erating the reporting authorities.

Following the judgement in P.C. Wadhwa case, referred to above, the All India Service (Confidential Rolls) Rules, 1970 had been amended on 8.12.87. Rule 2(a), 2(e) and 2(f) of these Rules defining 'accepting authority', 'reporting

authority' and 'reviewing authority' respectively were amended to provide that such authority should be one supervising the performance of the officer and an explanation was also added providing that the authority or authorities supervising the performance of the officer shall not necessarily mean an authority or authorities belonging to the same service to which the reporting or the reviewing authority, as the case may be, belongs.

Looking to the above Rule position as amended in 1987 and considering the implications of the judgement on inter-departmental coordination at the field level, the Ministry of Environment & Forests as the Cadre Controlling Authority for the Indian Forest Service, has been advised to file a review petition in the Supreme Court.

As per the information made available by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Environment & Forests, which are the Cadre Controlling Authorities for Indian Police Service (IPS) and the Indian Forest Service (IFS) respectively, no representations have been received from the IPS or IFS Officers' Associations in this regard.

Effect on Software Services

*552 SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World's second computer service firm, Electronic Data Systems Corporation expects that US slowdown will bring more business to its Asian and Indian operations;

(b) if so, whether on launching of a new development centre in the southern city of Chennai, EDS has pointed out that US firms are keen to cut costs and were now looking at Asia for outsourcing software services;

(c) if so, to what extent the US slowdown has helped India; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to take advantage of US slowdown?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The slowdown in the US economy, as indications suggest